

April 11, 2017

Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill, 2017 passed in Lok Sabha



Lok Sabha has passed Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill, 2017 which seeks to give constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes. The bill was passed by the house with 360 MPs voting in favor and 2 against

the bill. Objectives of the Bill The Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill seeks to make the following changes: It seeks to insert a new article 338B in the constitution which provides for NCBC, its composition, mandate, functions and various officers. Insert a new article 342-A which empowers the president to notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes of that state / union territory. In case of a state, president will make such notification after consultation with the Governor. Under the same article, it is proposed that parliament by making a law can include or exclude the classes from the central list of backward classes. The Lok Sabha has passed the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016 by a voice vote to give more thrust to road safety, controlling pollution and accidents. The bill seeks to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 that provides for legal standards for motor vehicles, grant of driving licenses, and penalties for violation of these provisions.

President Pranab Mukherjee picks winner of Lucky Grahak and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana



President Pranab Mukherjee has picked up lucky winners from the 100th draw of lots under the digital payments promotion schemes Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana. Total the six winners were selected – three consumers and three merchants of Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana.

The winners will be felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 14 in Nagpur (Maharashtra) on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti. Key Facts The winners were identified through a random draw of eligible Transaction IDs by software developed by National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI). Consumer section: The first mega prize of Rs. 1 crore went to a customer of Central Bank of India. The second prize of Rs. 50 lakh went to Bank of Baroda customer and third prize of Rs. 25 lakh went to customer of Punjab National Bank. Selected customers had done transactions using their RuPay debit cards. Merchants Sections: Top three merchants won prizes of Rs.50 lakh, Rs. 25 lakh and Rs. 12 lakh, respectively.

Election Commission cancels bye-poll to R K Nagar Assembly constituency in Chennai over charges of large scale bribing of voters



In Tamil Nadu, the Election Commission last night cancelled the bye-poll to the Dr Radhakrishnan Nagar Assembly constituency in Chennai. EC in its order said, in the face of large scale violations of model code of conduct and charges of disbursement of huge amount of

money to voters, the commission cancelled the bye-poll which was to be held on Wednesday. The poll panel further said, bye-poll would be held in due course when the vitiating effect created by the distribution of money and gift items gets removed with the passage of time and the atmosphere in the constituency becomes conducive to the holding of free and fair election. The decision comes after the income tax department conducted searches in the properties owned by Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar, on Friday.

Centre Releases Funds under MGNREGS



The Ministry of Rural Development has released nearly 23,500 crore rupees to the States as first tranche for this Financial Year, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The amount released includes all pending liabilities as on 31st March, 2017. It is also to ensure priority work on water conservation measures. The Government is laying considerable emphasis on Water Conservation and Water Management works under the scheme.

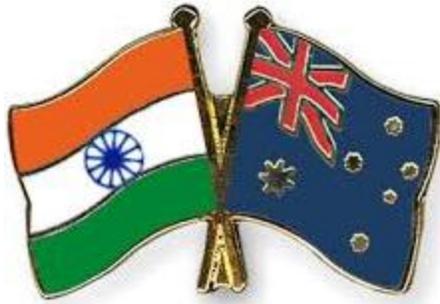
First UK rail freight service to China departs



The first rail freight service from United Kingdom to China departed from Essex. Earlier the first freight train in the opposite direction, from China to UK had arrived in London in January 2017. The train service was launched as part of China's ambitious One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative that aims to revive the ancient Silk Road trading routes with the West dating back more than 2,000 years.

India and Australia sign six agreements, including expanding counter-terrorism cooperation

India and Australia have reaffirmed their commitment to a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, based on mutual respect and cooperation. In a joint statement issued in New Delhi today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull agreed to draw on the strengths of each other to create jobs and investment and raise living standards. Mr Modi said, he and the Australian Prime Minister have decided to hold discussion on comprehensive economic partnership between the two countries. India and Australia inked six agreements in areas including expanding counter-terrorism cooperation, civil aviation security, sports, health and medicine and satellite navigation.



Pakistan sentences alleged RAW agent Kulbhushan Jadhav to death



Pakistan's Field General Court Martial has sentenced to death Indian national and alleged RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) agent Kulbhushan Jadhav (46) who was arrested last year on charges of spying. The death sentence was confirmed by army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa after the Field General Court Martial found him guilty of all the charges. Background Kulbhushan Jadhav was arrested in March 2016 by Pakistani security forces in the restive Balochistan province after he reportedly entered from Iran. Pakistan has alleged that Jadhav was a serving officer in the Indian Navy and deputed to the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), foreign (external) intelligence agency of India. Union External Affairs Ministry

had acknowledged that Jadhav served with the navy but has no link with government since his premature retirement from Indian Navy. Earlier in 1999, Pakistan had hanged an Indian Sheikh Shamim also on charges of spying. In 2013, another Indian national, Sarabjit Singh was also sentenced to death (16 years) for spying in Pakistan. He was killed in jail after being attacked by fellow inmates. However, these two previous cases were gone through civilian courts.

G-7 Energy Ministers fail to reach agreement on a joint statement on climate change

Energy Ministers from the Group of Seven industrialised nations, G-7, have failed to reach



agreement on a joint statement on climate change after the United States expressed reservations. Italian Minister for Economic Development, Carlo Calenda, who chaired the meeting in Rome, said, the United States reserved its position on the text

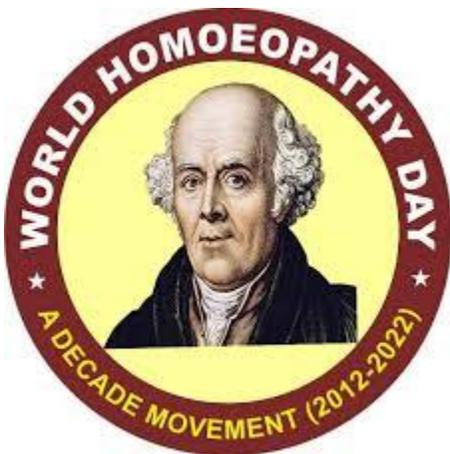
about commitments made by G7 countries under the 2015 Paris climate accord. The accord is a bedrock of international action against man-made global warming. Last month, President Donald Trump signed an executive order rolling back some of the previous Democratic administration's policies on carbon emissions and climate change. In another development, G-7 Foreign ministers met yesterday to forge a response to the deadly chemical attack in Syria. G-7 diplomats gathering in Lucca, Italy, hope to use outrage over the attack and wide international support for the United States' retaliatory missile strikes to push Russia to abandon Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and join a new peace effort for Syria.

Scientists discovers protein PorB that increases effectiveness of vaccines against cancer



Scientists from Boston University School of Medicine, US have discovered a protein called PorB that could help make vaccinations more effective and provide protection from diseases such as cancer. In this study, researchers had purified this protein, found on the exterior of bacteria (*neisseria meningidis*). It helps to increase amount of antibody production and can stimulate cells to kill offending agent and used it as an accessory to provide a better vaccination response. Proteins are unusually any of a class of nitrogenous organic compounds which have large molecules composed of one or more long chains of amino acids. They are an essential part of all living organisms, especially as structural components of body tissues such as muscle, hair, etc., and as enzymes and antibodies.

April 10: World Homoeopathy Day



The World Homoeopathy Day is observed every year on April 10 to pay tribute to Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, founder and father of Homeopathy system of medicine. Observance of the day seeks to spread more knowledge about this form of medicine in the mainstream public health. This year it is 262nd birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy. On this occasion, AYUSH Ministry, had organised International Convention on

World Homoeopathy Day with theme “Enhancing Quality Research in Homoeopathy through scientific evidence and rich clinical experiences”.